The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1915, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1534 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 36

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Now that Labor Day is over, it would be profitable for the workers of the United States to analyze calmly and dispassionately the messages addressed to them by labor's leaders.

In this connection, we wish to call attention to a highly discerning editorial published in the New York Herald Tribune the day after Labor Day.

"There is a difference between Mr. Green's and Mr. Lewis' attitude (on national defense)," says the editorial. "It is an important one, and for none more important than for labor."

We agree with this statement 100 per cent.

The editorial continues:

"Mr. Green unqualifiedly pledged himself to anything—any work or any sacrifice—that may be necessary, but he wanted to be assured that whatever was asked really was necessary.

"Mr. Lewis produced an old-fashioned, rip-snorting attack on 'private greed' and 'men in high places' and then pledged himself to national defense on the terms which Mr. Lewis chose to lay down."

The editorial agreed that Mr. Green was justified in calling on the President to let the nation know what the man-power needs of the nation are and to present a definite program to fulfill those needs before supporting conscription. "No such promise emerges from Mr. Lewis," it points out.

The Sore Spot

Then, the editorial probes the sore, diseased and painfully secret flaw in the Lewis philosophy. It quotes Mr. Lewis as saying that even an army of four million conscripts cannot save the nation "if the people doubt whether it is worth saving."

This "leads one to wonder just why Mr. Lewis should put so much energy into implying that the nation is not worth saving," says the newspaper. "It is everlastingly true that no armament program can ever defend this country unless its people—all its people—think it profoundly worth defending. If labor imagines, or allows labor leaders to imagine, that it is being asked to defend something other than itself, its institutions, its freedoms, its great stake in the common enterprise, then we might as well forget about defense altogether."

What did Mr. Green say on this subject? Here it is:

"The great army of workers and the unions represented by the American Federation of Labor courageously face the fact that the preservation of America and democracy transcends all other considerations.

"Truly observing the spirit of Labor Day, we stand here and publicly proclaim that we are ready to work, we are ready to sacrifice, we are ready to fight for America."

Surely the difference between the patriotic and courageous stand taken by Mr. Green and the false and hypocritical mouthings of Mr. Lewis should be just as clear to every working man and woman in this country as it is to the editorial writers of the New York Herald Tribune.

It is the difference between loyalty and treachery. It is the difference between Americanism and Communism.

Americanism vs. Communism

Search Mr. Lewis' speech and try to find a single denunciation of the Stalin dictatorship. It can't be done. But Mr. Green openly declared:

"I am proud to repeat now the statement I have consistently made these many years that there is no room in the American Federation of Labor for Nazism, Communism or Fascism. We regard these philosophies as hostile to Americanism. We regard Communists, Nazis and Fascists as traitors to America. We strongly urge that such traitorous organizations as the Communist Party and the Nazi Bund be outlawed."

What does Mr. Lewis say to such followers as still cling to him? He says that within the coming months and years, labor and the "common people of the country, the aged, the youth, the Negroes, have several choices to make about their immediate future. They must decide whether the major political parties, constituted and directed as they are, can fulfill the nation's needs."

What is that, if not Communist propaganda? What is it, if not a reiteration of Mr. Lewis' personal political ambitions? What is Mr. Lewis planning for, if not the complete political and economic collapse of the country so that he may attempt a Hitler "putsch" in America?

Truly, the workers of America have received an important message on Labor Day. It is a message that applies not only to their personal welfare, but to the welfare of America. The message is simply this:—If you love your country and wish to defend it from the Hitlers, Stalins and Mussolinis, your place is in the American Federation of Labor.

Green Rallies America's Workers to National Defense; Meany Urges Maintenance of Labor's Economic Gains; Roosevelt and Willkie Both Greet AF of L on Labor Day

Secretary-Treasurer Declares Labor Has "Pitched" Into Defense Job Determinedly and Patriotically.

Syracuse, N. Y.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, assured the workers of the land in a Labor Day address here that the A. F. of L. will not permit the standards and rights of organized labor to be sacrificed, destroyed or destroyed in the present emergency.

He promised the most vigorous opposition by labor to "those who would use the present situation to their own selfish advantage."

Speaking at a Labor Day banquet arranged by the Syracuse Federation of Labor, Mr. Meany said:

"Mr. Hitler has solemnly vowed that he has not the slightest intention of injuring the United States, but we know from experience that the worth of any pledge by that person is considerably less than nil.

"So labor, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, whose patriotism and zealous devotion to the ideals and principles of democracy cannot be called into question, has rolled up its sleeves and pitched into the job that has to be done to translate the defense program from blueprints to tangible instruments of defense."

Declaring that organized labor is "keenly aware" of the desire of its enemies to use the present situation to "shackle" the workers of the nation, Mr. Meany warned that labor must be dealt with "in accordance with the rules of justice."

"Labor today as in the past is prepared to make whatever sacrifices are necessary in order that we may help our government preserve and protect the nation and the liberties it holds," he said.

"But labor is determined that the fundamental rights and guarantees of our Federal Constitution and all of the gains made by labor because we have enjoyed those fundamental rights and guarantees shall be maintained and preserved.

"These rights and guarantees are our most priceless possessions as American workers. They are the things that make our way of life worth fighting for. Surely it is not intelligent to throw them overboard just at the time when we are getting ready to defend them."

The pro-worker features of the Wage and Hour Law, the Walsh-Healey Act and other labor legislation "shall not be suspended," Mr. Meany asserted.

"The minimum provisions of these laws protect the health and efficiency of the workers so necessary for the speedy achievement of a defense program sufficient for our needs," he pointed out.

Mr. Meany said the American Federation of Labor has enjoyed the confidence and support of the American people for sixty years and is determined to continue to enjoy that confidence and support.

"And I am sure," he added, "that within the days ahead, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, will warrant and justify the confidence of the American people, as it has constantly done down the years, not by mere words but by deeds that all the world can see.

"So far as that part of the defense program for which labor is responsible is concerned, there should be no question that it will be carried out as efficiently and rapidly as possible.

"When the liberties of free men are at stake, free American workers have never been found wanting. They shall not be found wanting now."

Mr. Meany told his audience that this Labor Day the American Federation of Labor was stronger than at any previous point in its long history with the actual paid membership standing at more than 4,500,000 working men and women.

He found the improvement in the lives of workers and their families which had been brought about by trade unionism.

"When the American Federation of Labor came into being," he related, "men would work sixty, seventy, eighty and more hours a week, generally under terrible conditions, and when the week's work was done their pay was so small it was only with the greatest difficulty that a place to live and a sufficiency of food could be provided for the workers and their families."

Today, in sharpest contrast, the average American Federation of Labor member "has a comfortable home, buys wholesome food for his family, sends his children to school and enjoys leisure which he is free to use in self-improvement and in taking intelligent part in the affairs of his community," Mr. Meany declared.

This great change has been brought about, he declared, by "practical, realistic and vigorous trade unionism."

Commenting on the war in Europe, Mr. Meany said the events of the last twelve months demonstrated the rightness of the American Federation of Labor's constant opposition to Communism, Nazism and Fascism.

"Through the years the A. F. of L. for years had refused to recognize "any important difference between a dictatorship of the Nazi-Fascist type and a dictatorship like that of Russia," he remarked.

"It is interesting to note that the American Federation of Labor now has a great deal of company in its condemnation of all foreign isms from the parlor pinks who not so long ago tried to class the American Federation of Labor as backward, if not worse, because the A. F. of L. was so adamant in its refusal to fall for the alleged excellencies of Communism."

Candidates Give Views On Labor In American Federationist

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie extended their personal Labor Day greetings to the five million members of the American Federation of Labor and expressed their position on labor's problems in articles published in the September issue of the American Federationist.

This was the first time in the campaign that the Democratic and Republican candidates for the presidency clashed in debate on a major issue and the American Federationist "scooped" the country by its exclusive presentation of their views.

In his statement, President Roosevelt declared that "all of the rights and safeguards established by law since 1933 to protect the rights of American wage earners" will reveal that this Administration has been unremitting in its efforts to foster, promote and develop the interests of labor, to improve working conditions and to "increase opportunities for profitable employment."

"If anyone asks the question as to the future policy of the Administration toward labor," the President continues, "the answer is that we shall hold steadfastly to every advance gained and not permit present safeguards to be whittled away by yielding to the specious arguments of those whose lip service to labor is loud and eloquent before election but whose ears are deaf to all appeals to justice the rest of the time.

"The Administration is willing to be judged—as to future policy—by past performance. The achievements of this Administration since 1933 must be witness to its good faith in the future."

Every person owes a debt to organized labor, Mr. Willkie says in his article. "The growth of industry and labor has been a principal factor in bringing about improved working conditions, higher wages and shorter hours *for* all.

Mr. Willkie advocates a "continued rise in American wage levels."

Coming out flatly for collective bargaining, Mr. Willkie added:

"I sympathize with the criticism advanced by the American Federation of Labor against the National Labor Relations Board and with the Federation's emphasis upon the necessity for fetter administration of the Labor Act. . . .

"I would like the desired end some changes in the Wagner Act are necessary, but I believe that the more important thing of all is a new attitude in Washington. If the New Deal is continued, it will be carried out by fair administration of the law. But before the American labor movement becomes completely committed to supporting any party, for my part, I pledge myself to help the principle of free unions."

MISS PERKINS REPORTS EMPLOYMENT GAINS

Boston, Mass.—Secretary Perkins, reporting an increase of more than 1,000,000 in agricultural employment in the last year, asserted that "the number employed in 1940 will be greater than it was seven years ago, exclusive of some 2,000,000 additional men and women enrolled on WPA."

She forecast that employment and payrolls would rise in the coming months "under the stimulus of the comprehensive defense program."

In her Labor Day address Miss Perkins reported that the year had seen a marked improvement in industrial relations and that wage earners and business were cooperating wholeheartedly in carrying out defense tasks.

PREDICT NEW JOBS FOR 4,500,000 IDLE WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—Administration economists made a prediction that the national defense program with conscription included, would put unemployment in half by July 1, reducing the number of jobless from 9,000,000 to 4,500,000, according to the Associated Press.

They said that they expected a gradual increase in industrial employment to provide jobs for more than 3,000,000 men in the next twelve months. Mobilization of the National Guard and the start of selective service—assuming favorable Congressional action on the latter measure—would account for another 1,000,000 reduction in unemployment by late December, they added.

In the case of compulsory military training, the jobless total may be reduced both by drafting unemployed youths and by the hiring of men withdrawn from the ranks to fill vacated by employed conscripts.

Manufacture of uniforms and equipment for the men in training is expected to employ thousands. Plans for factories, shell plants, tank manufacturing and scores of other industries are listed as new employment opportunities.

AFL President Promises Workers Are Ready To "Work, Sacrifice and Fight" to Defend Homeland.

Denver, Col.—Rallying America's workers to the transcendent duty of defending America, President William Green in a Labor Day address, which was broadcast from here throughout the nation, pledged full and patriotic support to the preparedness program.

Speaking from the steps of the City Building to a crowd that overflowed the civic park, President Green solemnly rededicated the American Federation of Labor to "the task of defending our homeland against invasion and to the preservation of our form of government, our democratic institutions, our individual liberties and our free, democratic trade unions."

Mr. Green condemned with "equal and unqualified force" the dictatorships of Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini.

He urged this country to extend every aid, short of entry into the war, to Great Britain as a means of keeping war away from America.

He proclaimed that the men and women of labor are ready to "work, sacrifice and fight" for America.

He demanded that economic and social gains must be maintained and that the creation of war millionaires must be prevented.

In a frank and open discussion of the issue of military conscription, Mr. Green expressed opposition to the Burke-Wadsworth bill but declared that if the Government conclusively proves that voluntary enlistment is inadequate and conscription essential "we are ready to approve it."

Assailing Fifth Column activities in this country, Mr. Green reiterated labor's demands that the Communist Party and the Nazi Bund be outlawed.

Taking up labor's internal problems, the AFL President issued a new appeal for labor peace and charged that the "sole obstructionist" is the leader of the CIO.

He announced that the American Federation of Labor is stronger now than at any previous time in its history.

Highlights from Mr. Green's address follow:

National Defense

"Because I know the hearts and the minds of American working men and women, I can publicly pledge their services will be willingly and loyally devoted to the successful completion of our defense program. America's workers can be relied upon wholly and absolutely to do the job that nation requires and demands.

"The great army of workers and the unions represented by the American Federation of Labor courageously face the fact that, the preservation of America and democracy transcends all other considerations.

"Truly observing the spirit of Labor Day, we stand here and publicly proclaim that we are ready to work, we are ready to sacrifice, we are ready to fight for America."

Preserving Labor's Gains

Our National Preparedness program must provide for the maintenance of our economic and social gains. They must neither be lowered nor wiped out. Profiteering and exploitation must be prohibited. The creation of war millionaires must be prevented and governmental guarantees must be given that no one called to serve the nation will be sent abroad to engage in a European conflict. We must prepare for defense but never for aggression."

Conscription

"The American Federation of Labor opposes the Burke-Wadsworth bill. We have no more confidence in it than in its sponsors. We do not consider it well-conceived or well-planned. On a matter as vital as this to the nation's welfare, we feel that it is the duty of the President of the United States to send a message to Congress stating the man-power needs of the nation's military forces and recommending a definite program to fulfill those needs.

"On this issue we say to our Government:—We do not know what this is all about. We are not obstructionists, we are patriotic Americans. Give us the facts. Show us frankly why conscription is needed. If we actually need conscription, we are ready to approve it."

Avoid Strikes

"Organized labor, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, realizes that at a time like this industrial conflict would be stupid and dangerous. We urge workers and employers alike to be calm and patient. We appeal to them to be fair and reasonable in their relations with industry. Let both sides follow the peaceful and sensible policy of collective bargaining in the settlement of any disputes that may arise. That is our prayer and our purpose."

Subversive Activities

I am proud to repeat now the statement I have consistently made these many years that there is no room in the American Federation of Labor for Nazism, Communism or Fascism. We regard these philosophies as hostile to Americanism. We regard Communists, Nazis and Fascists as traitors to America. We strongly urge that such traitorous organizations as the Communist Party and the Nazi Bund be outlawed."

Labor Peace

"Let me repeat once more the position of the American Federation of Labor so that there can be no misunderstandings or mistakes. The American Federation of Labor is willing to do anything in reason to promote peace. We are willing to go more than half way. We want those who left us to come back home. We will welcome them without discrimination and without penalties of any kind."

The Future

"We who have faith in humanity, in justice and in a Divine Power refuse to believe in the triumph of evil. We who seek the light are not afraid of the dark. We know a new day is coming, a happier day, when peace and justice will once again be restored to humankind. Until that day comes we are ready to fight to the last drop of blood to defend and preserve America and the American way of life."

Willkie Endorses AFL Declaration On Unemployment

Rushville, Ind.—In a statement issued on Labor Day, Wendell L. Willkie, Republican nominee for President, pledged himself, if elected, to "the wholehearted cooperation of labor, industry, agriculture and every other group in the task of overcoming our present economic stagnation and to wiping out unemployment."

Mr. Willkie declared that every friend of American labor should refuse to be taken in by totalitarian dictatorships of Europe free trade unions had been liquidated and union leaders had been imprisoned and in some cases murdered. He also pledged himself to check what he called the present trend toward government control of labor unions and expressed agreement with a statement of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor declaring that the present method of government spending, either on direct relief or work projects, could not provide a permanent solution for unemployment. And calling for removal of barriers to confidence so that owners and managers of industry would be willing to risk the expenditure of capital for the development of industrial enterprises.

Roosevelt Promises Labor's Benefits Will Be Preserved

Chickamauga, Tenn.—In a Labor Day address here, President Roosevelt hailed "the miracles that men have wrought" by seven years of labor in constructing the great dams of the Tennessee Valley Authority's power projects.

He called this TVA development "a splendid example of a productive partnership between management and labor" and pointed out that "collective bargaining and efficiency have proceeded hand in hand."

Discussing the harnessing of natural resources, the President concluded:

"In that development let us always remember that we must and shall retain the great gains that have been made for human social security in recent years. We propose, indeed, not to retard them alone but to improve and extend them. Most assuredly we are determined neither to destroy nor to weaken them.

"We understand now what we did not understand in 1917 and 1918—that the building up of Army and Navy equipment and the training of men to use it ought not to result in waste of our national resources, and at the same time ought not to break down the gains of labor or the maintenance of living wages.

"We are seeking the preparedness of America, not against the threat of war or conquest alone but in order that preparedness be built to assure American peace that rests on the well-being of the American people."

Revolt Breaks Out Within C. I. O. Against Curran's Communist Line

New York, N. Y.—A telegram sent by Joseph Curran, president of the Greater New York Industrial Union of the CIO, to hundreds of unions in this city asking them to give financial support to the Emergency Peace Mobilization held in Chicago precipitated the most widespread rebellion in the CIO history.

Thirty-six officers of twenty-seven unions affiliated with the United Retail and Wholesale Employes of America, CIO, started the revolt by issuing a joint letter to Curran in which they said:

"We consider your telegram of Aug. 21 asking for financial aid for the so-called 'peace mobilization meeting' in Chicago tantamount to a request that we give sustenance to a program which would benefit the totalitarian nations and which is, in our opinion, diametrically opposed to the best interests of our country and of democracy and labor throughout the world. You can, therefore, expect no support from us."

Among the signers were four international vice presidents of the U. R. W. E. A. and the president, secretary and business manager of the organization's New York joint council. In making the telegram public, Murray J. Kudish, secretary-manager of the Retail Dairy, Grocery and Fruit Employes Union, Local 338, accused Mr. Curran of attempting to "drag the name of the CIO into the so-called 'peace front' which has been organized by the Communists, Nazis and other fifth columnists."

Other unions identified with the anti-Communist bloc in the CIO were quick to dissociate themselves from any connection with the Chicago peace rally. Asserting that the gathering was backed by "all the subversive groups in the country," Louis Hollander, manager of the New York joint board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, forecast CIO union in the metropolitan area, said his organization "did have nothing at all to do with it."

Jack Rubenstein, general manager of the New York joint board of the Textile Workers Union, CIO, announced that the textile locals here would ignore Mr. Curran's appeal for funds.

New Bridges Investigation Starts; G-Men Seek Grounds to Deport Him

Washington, D. C.—Attorney-General Robert H. Jackson announced that J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, would begin immediately a new investigation of Harry Bridges, West coast CIO leader, to determine whether he is deportable under the recently enacted Smith act.

Mr. Jackson said he was acting at the request of Senator William H. King, Democrat, of Utah, chairman of the Senate Immigration Committee, a ruling of which recommended recently that a bill intended specifically for Bridges's deportation be side-tracked in favor of a new inquiry into the case.

He added that Mr. Hoover was on the west coast and was prepared to start the investigation.

The Smith act, Mr. Jackson declared, closed a loophole in the law by means of which deportation proceedings against Bridges were dropped last December.

Senator King declared that Bridges should be deported immediately because his presence in the United States was "hurtful" to a minority report on the Immigration Committee's recommendations he said there was nothing at all to do with it.

Bridges's deportation case has been so notorious, his contempt for the American way of life so flaunted, and his deportation influence so extensive, that in my opinion—an opinion strengthened by action of the House Committee—there can be no denying Bridges's hostility to our form of government nor the fact that his continued presence in this country will be harmful," Senator King said.

ALL DICTATORS CONDEMNED BY TEACHERS FEDERATION

Buffalo, N. Y.—The American Federation of Teachers at the final session of its annual convention here adopted a resolution condemning all forms of dictator government.

The anti-dictator resolution was directed at "all dictatorships, whether of Nazi, Fascist or Communist origin, whether in Germany, Italy or Russia."

In the same resolution the federation pledged its support to the United States Constitution, calling for "continuation for all people" of the principles of American government.

Tobin Resigns White House Post To Aid Democratic Party Campaign

Washington, D. C.—Daniel J. Tobin resigned as administrative assistant to President Roosevelt to take charge of the labor bureau of the Democratic National Committee for the duration of the Presidential campaign.

Mr. Tobin, who is vice president of the American Federation of Labor and head of the Teamsters Union, became a White House assistant last Summer. His new appointment was offered by Edward J. Flynn, national committee chairman.

In a letter of resignation Mr. Tobin told President Roosevelt:

"Our program of national defense is going forward as well as can be expected, and labor, in all of its many activities, is fully cooperating with it and that our government may proceed with the defense preparation for the proper protection of our country.

"I now feel that there is another call on my services which I cannot honorably set aside."

Mr. Tobin headed the Democratic committee's labor division in 1932 and 1936. He said that he was taking the post again because if the "enemies of labor" were successful in electing their candidates "it is possible, and probable, that the labor of the nation may lose the advantages they have gained from humanitarian representatives and leaders in our government."

Commenting on the resignation, the President referred to Mr. Flynn's offer and said:

"Ed's gain is my loss.

"I will continue to count on your advice on all matters affecting labor and government, with particular relationship to national defense."

I. T. U. Agrees to Hold Conference On Reaffiliation With Federation

New Orleans, La.—The annual convention of the International Typographical Union unanimously voted to authorize its Executive Council to confer with the officers of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of arriving at a satisfactory basis for reaffiliation of the I.T.U. with the A. F. of L.

This action was taken at the suggestion of Matthew Woll, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor, who addressed the convention. Mr. Woll told the delegates of the union, which is under suspension, that the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. will recommend to the next A. F. of L. convention that the present assessment now levied on all international unions be abolished and that hereafter international unions may be suspended only on authority from the A. F. of L. conventions.

Instead of the present one-cent assessment, which was levied to increase the revenues of the A. F. of L. for organizing purposes, it is expected that the Executive Council will recommend a Constitutional amendment raising the present one-cent per capita tax to two cents. This will assure the A. F. of L. an adequate income.